

Public Health Office,
32, South Street,
Bridport.

December, 1945

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE BRIDPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1944
INCLUDING STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD 1938-1944

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health Adam Armit, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor. Robert Armstrong, M.Inst.M & Cy.E.
Veterinary Surgeon (Part-time) K.I. Marshall, M.R.C.V.S. A.R.S.I.
Clerk (Temporary) Miss A.M. Johnson.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

| | |
|---|---------|
| Area in acres | 686.5 |
| Registrar General's estimate of population ... | 5,939 |
| No. of inhabited houses (according to rate books at end of 1944) ... | 1,866 |
| Rateable Value | £43,882 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | £175 |

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births M. F.

| | | | |
|--------------|----|----|--|
| All births | 54 | 47 | Birth Rate per 1000 resident population = 17.00 |
| Legitimate | 51 | 42 | |
| Illegitimate | 3 | 5 | |

Total births101

Still Births M. F.

| | | | |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| All still births | 1 | - | Still birth rate per 1000 resident population = 0.17 |
| Legitimate | 1 | - | |
| Illegitimate | - | - | |

Total still births1

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

| | | | |
|--------------|----|----|---|
| | M. | F. | |
| Total | 2 | 2 | |
| Legitimate | 2 | - | Death Rate all Infants per 1000 notified births = 39.6 |
| Illegitimate | - | 2 | |

Deaths from Puerperal causes Nil

Maternal Mortality rate per 1000 live and still birthsNil

Deaths M. F.

| | | | |
|--------------|----|----|--|
| Total deaths | 34 | 59 | Death rate per 1000 estimated resident population = 15.66 |
|--------------|----|----|--|

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGE

| | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 |
|---|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| 3. Scarlet Fever | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 4. Whooping Cough | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5. Diphtheria | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 6. Tuberculosis Res. System | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 7. Other forms Tuberculosis | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 8. Syphilitic Diseases | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 9. Influenza | - | - | 4 | 1 | - | - | - |
| 10. Measles | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 11. Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio Encephalitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 12. Acute Inf. Encephalitis | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 13. Cancer of Buc. Cav & Oesoph (m) Uterus (f) | - | - | 3 | - | 1 | - | - |
| 14. Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum | - | 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
| 15. Cancer of Breast | - | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | 1 | - |
| 16. Cancer all Other Sites | 10 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 12 | 7 |
| 17. Diabetes | - | 2 | 1 | - | 4 | - | - |
| 18. Intracranial Vascular Lesion | 2 | 18 | 10 | 18 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 19. Heart Disease | 24 | 26 | 24 | 15 | 27 | 29 | 30 |
| 20. Other Diseases Circ. System | 5 | - | 5 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| 21. Bronchitis | 5 | 5 | 1 | - | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| 22. Pneumonia | 7 | 2 | 12 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| 23. Other Resp. Diseases | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | 4 | 1 |
| 24. Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum | - | 1 | 2 | - | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 25. Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs) | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 26. Appendicitis | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 27. Other Digestive Dis. | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| 28. Nephritis | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | - |
| 29. Puer. & Post Abort. Sepsis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 30. Other maternal Causes | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| 31. Premature Birth | 3 | - | 1 | 3 | - | 3 | 1 |
| 32. Con. Mal. Birth Inj. Inf. Dis. | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 33. Suicide | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 34. Road Traffic Accidents | - | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 35. Other Violent Causes | 1 | 3 | 14 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| 36. All Other Causes | 15 | 16 | 19 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 9 |
| TOTALS | 87 | 94 | 108 | 81 | 94 | 104 | 93 |

OTHER VITAL STATISTICS

| | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| Population | 5732 | 5908 | 5903 | 6121 | 6115 | 5877 | 5939 |
| Rateable Value ... | £41366 | £43584 | £43833 | £43959 | £43954 | £ 43597 | £43882 |
| Estimated Produce of Penny Rate | £162 | £164 | £172 | £172 | £178 | £175 | £175 |
| BIRTHS:- | | | | | | | |
| Live Births | 67 | 79 | 85 | 85 | 101 | 81 | 101 |
| Legitimate | 66 | 74 | 84 | 82 | 95 | 74 | 93 |
| Illegitimate... .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Still Births... .. | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Live Birth Rate ... | 11.69 | 13.4 | 14.39 | 13.88 | 16.5 | 13.78 | 17 |
| Live Birth Rate (England & Wales) | 15.61 | 15 | 14.6 | 14.2 | 15.8 | 16.5 | 17.6 |
| DEATHS:- | | | | | | | |
| Total Deaths... .. | 87 | 94 | 108 | 81 | 94 | 104 | 93 |
| Death Rate | 11.84 | 12.41 | 14.81 | 13.09 | 15.37 | 17.69 | 15.66 |
| Death Rate (England & Wales) | 11.6 | 12.1 | 14.3 | 12.9 | 11.6 | 12.1 | 11.6 |
| INFANT MORTALITY:- | | | | | | | |
| Deaths under 1 Year of Age | 7 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Infantile Death Rate | 104.5 | 37.5 | 46.5 | 43.48 | 19.80 | 49.38 | 39.6 |
| Infantile Death Rate (England & Wales) | 53 | 50 | 55 | 59 | 49 | 49 | 46 |
| MATERNAL MORTALITY:- | | | | | | | |
| Maternal Deaths ... | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| Maternal Mortality Rate | - | - | - | 10.54 | 9.9 | 11.9 | - |
| Maternal Mortality Rate (England & Wales) | 2.97 | 2.82 | 2.16 | 2.23 | 2.01 | 2.29 | 1.93 |

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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

All the Area is supplied by the Bridport Water Works Company from the source at Litton Cheney, about 6 miles east of the Borough. An addit driven into the hillside taps the springs and this addit enters a small collecting chamber built into the hillside. This also houses the chlorinating plant. The raw water is hard and pure in quality. A maximum of 320,000 gallons per day is delivered into the mains when the springs are at their highest flow. No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination. 8 samples were sent for analysis and the results were all very satisfactory. Approximately 145 houses are supplied by outside taps, the rest have water led into the houses.

Chemical Analysis (Raw Water)

| <u>Determination</u> | <u>Parts per 100,000</u> |
|--|--------------------------|
| Free Ammonia | 0.005 |
| Aluminoid Ammonia | 0.003 |
| Oxygen absorbed at 37°C in 15 mins ... | 0.0016 |
| " " " " in 4 mins ... | 0.0285 |
| Nitrates | Nil |
| Nitric Nitrogen Nitrates | 0.246 |
| Hardness, temporary... .. | 19 |
| " permanent... .. | 3.5 |
| " total | 22.5 |
| Chlorine | 2.3 |
| Total solids dried 180°C | 26 |
| Free Chlorine | Nil |
| Free Carbonic Acid | Nil |
| Metals (lead, copper, zinc, iron) ... | Nil |
| pH reaction | 7.5 |
| Appearance | Clear |
| Odour | None. |

Drainage & Sewerage

719' of new 4" drains and 90' of 6" drains were laid and tested. In addition the following soil and surface sewers have been laid on the Council's Housing Estate in readiness for the Council's Post War Housing Scheme:-
551 yds of 9" and 112 yds of 6" soil sewers and 399 yds of 9" and 210 yds of 6" surface water sewers.

Sanitary Inspections

| | | |
|--|-----|------------------------|
| No. of Inspections for all purposes... | 191 | |
| No. of Informal Notices | 11 | No. complied with.. 11 |
| No. of Statutory Notices | Nil | " " " Nil |
| Inspection of Shops | 76 | |
| " " Food Shops | 63 | |
| " " Bakehouses | 2 | |
| " " Houses | 67 | |
| " " Houses after Inf. Dis... | 9 | |
| " " Miscellaneous | 15 | |
| " " Drains | 22 | |

Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act.

The full time Rodent Officer, who was appointed at the end of 1943, completed his survey of the Borough. This showed 1 Reservoir (over 200 rats), 13 Major and Slight Areas, and 56 Minor Areas. These areas of infestation were baited and approximately 2,000 rats were destroyed. The work of disinfestation is still proceeding.

Condemnation of Foodstuffs.

| <u>Foodstuff</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Foodstuff</u> | <u>Quantity</u> |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Meat | 350 lbs (12 tins) | Fish | 502 lbs. |
| Bacon | 180 lbs | Milk | 232 tins |
| Beans | 34 tins | Sugar | 7 lbs |
| Tea | 8 lbs | Peas | 16 tins |
| Fruit | 4 tins | . | 6 doz. pkts. |
| Jam | 6 tins | Oranges | 2/3 case |
| Butter | 1 lb | Cake | 27 lbs |
| Flour | 3 lbs | Wheatflakes | 32 pkts. |
| Cheese | 5 lbs | Pudding powder | 44 pkts. |
| Pork Pies | 8 lbs | Sweets | 5 lbs. |

Cowsheds & Dairies.

No. of persons on Register at end of 1944 25

No. of Dairy Farms and other Dairy premises on Register
end of 1944... 11

No. of Dairy Farms inspected during 1944 10

No. of Inspections made during 1944 10

No. of Notices served Nil. No. complied with... Nil.

No. of Milkshops inspected during 1944 4

No. of Inspections made during 1944 10

No. of notices served Nil. No. complied with ... Nil.

There is one Pasteurising Plant in the Area.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses 1944.

1. Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for
housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)
..... 67

No. of Inspections made for the purpose 104

Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice 1944.

No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in
consequence of action informally taken by the Local
Authority or their Officers during 1944.....11

New Houses

Total No. of new houses erected during 1944.... Nil.

No. of houses owned by Local Authority 237

Approximate No. of working class houses in
the district.....1,500

There are approximately 100 - 150 applicants on the
waiting list for houses. The Council own ground at Court Orchard
to take 60 houses, and are negotiating for the purchase of an
additional 14 acres, so that the programme proposed is approximately
200 permanent Houses.

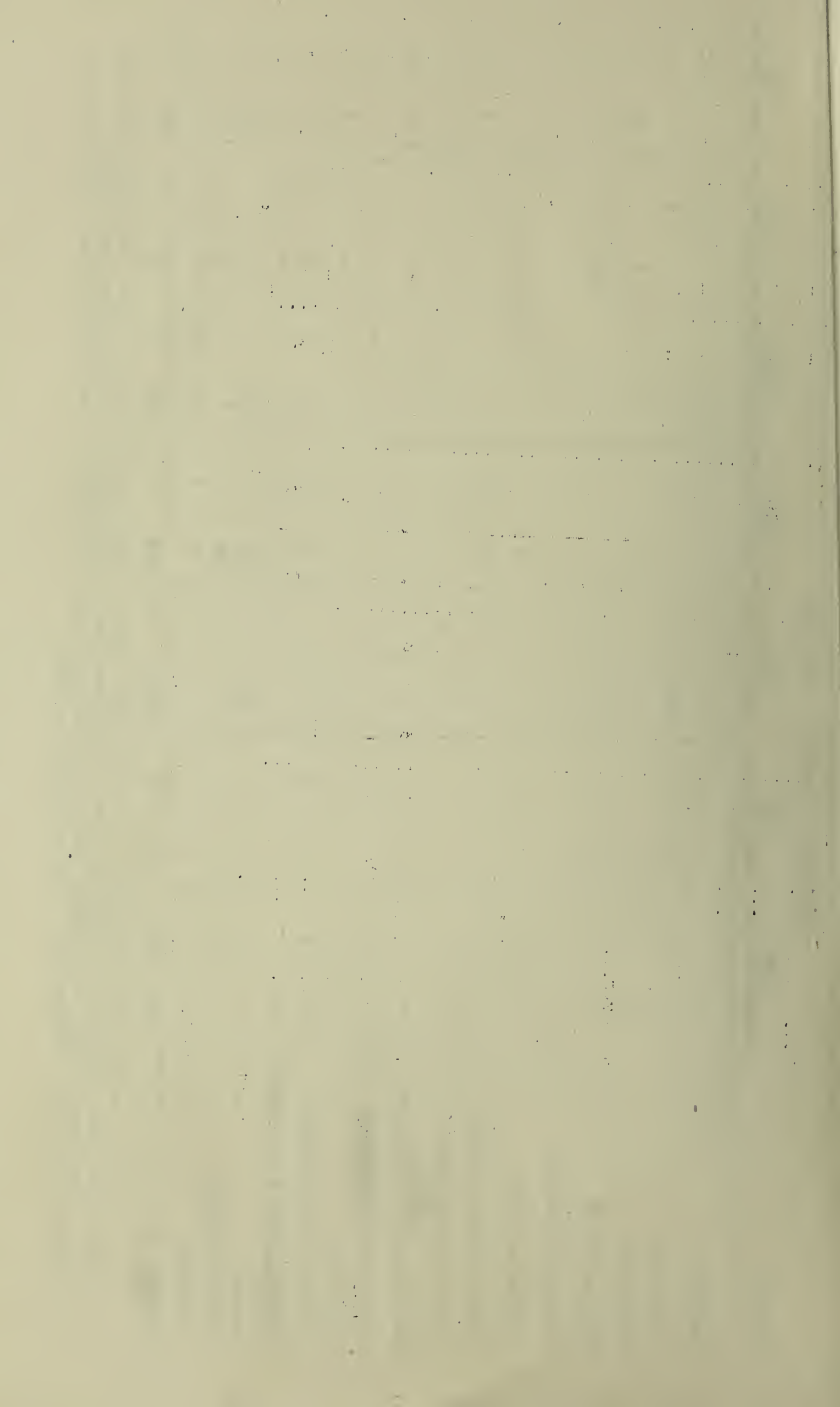
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1944

| INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1944 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|---|---|
| DISEASE | Total Cases at all ages | Total Cases Deaths in Hosp Removed to of persons Hospital in belonging to District. | | | | | | | | | | 65 & Total Over Deaths | 45-65 | 35-45 | 20-35 | 15-20 | 10-15 | 5-10 | 4-5 | 3-4 | 2-3 | 1-2 | Under 1 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 5 | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | 5 | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Dysentery | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Encephalitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Lethargica | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Non-Pulmonary T.B. | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Measles | 12 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | 17 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | 52 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 19 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1938-1944

| Disease | 1938 | | 1939 | | 1940 | | 1941 | | 1942 | | 1943 | | 1944 | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths |
| Smallpox ... | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Diphtheria ... | 1 | - | 2 | - | 16 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas ... | 3 | - | 3 | - | 1 | - | 12 | - | 3 | - | 6 | - | 3 | - |
| Scarlet Fever ... | 3 | - | 4 | - | 6 | - | 11 | - | 9 | - | 10 | - | 5 | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Puerperal Fever... | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... | - | - | - | - | 7 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 5 | 2 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dysentery ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 7 | 3 | 8 | 3 | - | - | 7 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Measles... | - | - | - | - | 129 | - | 91 | - | 15 | - | 17 | - | 12 | - |
| Whooping Cough... | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 74 | - | 6 | - | 2 | - | 17 | - |
| Pneumonia ... | 7 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 3 | - | 4 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 1 | - | - | - |
| TOTALS... | 24 | 10 | 25 | 6 | 163 | 2 | 213 | 9 | 52 | 8 | 43 | 7 | 52 | 4 |

It will be seen from the above Table that there were 16 cases of Diphtheria in 1940, one (not immunised) in 1941, one (not immunised) in 1942 and none in 1943 and 1944. The effects of immunisation are evident. There was a sharp outbreak of Measles in 1940 extending into 1941 and Whooping Cough was very prevalent. in 1941. Both these diseases were made notifiable in 1940.



TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases & Mortality

| Age Periods, | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|----|---------------|----|-----------|----|---------------|----|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 - 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 - 15 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 - 25 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25 - 35 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 35 - 45 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 - 55 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 55 - 65 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 and over | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | 6 | 2 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - |

Particulars of Deaths

One death, as follows:-

Pulmonary case. F. 26 years. Housewife. Duration of disease 6 months.

New Cases & Deaths 1938 - 1944

| | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|--------|-----------|----|---------------|----|-----------|----|---------------|----|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 1938 | 4 | 3 | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - |
| 1939 | 5 | 3 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - |
| 1940 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | - | 1 |
| 1941 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | - | 1 |
| 1942 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 1 |
| 1943 | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 1944 | 6 | 2 | 2 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| TOTALS | 28 | 19 | 7 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 3 | 4 |

Infectious Diseases

From the Schools the following cases of Infectious and other diseases were reported:-

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|----|-------|----------------|----|-------|
| German Measles | 32 | Cases | Chickenpox | 28 | cases |
| Whooping Cough | 17 | " | Coughs & Colds | 14 | " |
| Impetigo | 10 | " | Jaundice | 10 | " |
| Scabies | 8 | " | Measles | 3 | " |
| Tonsillitis | 2 | " | Scarlet Fever | 2 | " |
| Eczema | 2 | " | Diarrhoea | 1 | " |
| Conjunctivitis | 1 | " | Dysentery | 1 | " |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | 1 | " | Fungus growth | 1 | " |

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following tables show the position with regard to Diphtheria immunisation as at the end of 1944.

| Name of School. | Total on Register. | SCHOOLS | | Total Locals Imm'd. | Total T.Rs Imm'd. | Percentage Locals Immunised. |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| | | Locals. | Temp'y Residents. | | | |
| Bridport Grammar... | 239 | 215 | 24 | 151 | 20 | 70% |
| " General Senior... | 89 | 76 | 13 | 72 | 13 | 95% |
| " " Junior... | 151 | 102 | 49 | 101 | 44 | 99% |
| " " Infants... | 112 | 84 | 28 | 83 | 25 | 99% |
| " C.E. Senior.... | 78 | 61 | 17 | 60 | 17 | 98% |
| " " Junior & Infants | 213 | 182 | 31 | 177 | 30 | 97% |
| The Grove | 56 | 56 | - | 54 | - | 96% |
| St. Ronan's | 59 | 56 | 3 | 53 | 3 | 94% |
| TOTALS | 997 | 832 | 165 | 751 | 152 | 90% |

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

| Month. | Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. | | | Special Clinics. | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---------|-----|------------------|---------|------|
| | 1st | Inject. | 2nd | 1st | Inject. | 2nd. |
| January | 8 | ..... | 10 | - | ..... | - |
| February | 11 | ..... | 4 | - | ..... | - |
| March | 4 | ..... | 7 | - | ..... | - |
| April | 1 | ..... | 6 | - | ..... | - |
| May | 2 | ..... | 3 | - | ..... | - |
| June | 6 | ..... | 2 | - | ..... | - |
| July | 8 | ..... | 12 | - | ..... | - |
| August ..... | - | ..... | - | - | ..... | - |
| September | 14 | ..... | 8 | - | ..... | - |
| October | 9 | ..... | 12 | - | ..... | - |
| November | 27 | ..... | 10 | - | ..... | - |
| December | 9 | ..... | 16 | - | ..... | - |
| TOTALS | 99 | ..... | 90 | - | ..... | - |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of children under 5 years in district | 418 |
| " " " " " " Immunised | 283 |
| Percentage | 70% |

EVACUATION

During the war, evacuees from London and Southampton were billeted in the district. The following table shows the number on the Billeting Register at the end of the year:

| 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 260 | 274 | 502 | 407 | 318 | 465 |

